to the poor in a transparent, and accurate manner.

(v) Specially subsidised foodgrains will be issued also to all beneficiaries under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)/Jawahar Rozgar Yoja-na (JRY) at the rate of one kg. per man day.

(c) State Government/UT Administrations have been asked to identify the poor and ensure proper and effective delivery system, in a transparent and accurate manner. As soon as a Statc/UT has made all necessary arrangements, it can start deriving the benefits under TPDS.

Special Subsidy under Revamped PDS

120. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC r>TSTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared that food articles will be given to people below poverty line at a special subsidised rate;

(b) if so, the number of people below poverty line in India;

(c) the additional cost the Government has to bear on account of special subsidy;

(d) in what manner Government intend to distribute the specially subsidised articles to the poor;

(e) whether present system of PDS will be able to cover all the people below poverty line in the country; and

(f) if not, in what manner Government intend to reach them?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to streamline the Public Distribution System with focus on the poor covering about 3203.68 lakh persons (35.97% of total population) below the poverty line as per the estimates for 1993-94, based on the methodology adopted by the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala.

(c) The additional subsidy commitment for providing foodgrains at about half the prices to the poor will depend on Central Issue Price (CIP) fixed by the Government from time to time.

(d) State Government/UT Administrations have been asked to identify the people below poverty line and issue special cards to such families and to make necessary arrangements for delivery of foodgrains through Fair Price Shops and its distribution in a transparent and accountable manner.

(e) and (f) The present PDS is universal in nature and covers the entire population of the country. Government have decided to introduce Targeted Public Distribution System with focus on poor i.e. the population below the poverty line.

Bogus Ration Cards and Diversion of Ration Quota

121. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the State Minister/Secretaries was called recently to discuss the proposal for revamping of Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details of final decisions taken in the meeting and policies formulated and implications thereof;

(c) the specific improvements proposed in PDS to tackle the problem of bogus cards and nexus between traders and officers in diversion of quota meant for fair price shops to open market for financial gains; and

(d) the steps taken for strengthening of monitoring mechanism?